<center>**REMARKS**</center>

This Amendment is being concurrently filed with a Petition for Revival of a Patent Application Abandoned Unintentionally for the above-identified patent application. In this Amendment, new claims 33-37 have been added. As such, claims 1-10 and 28-37 will be pending in this application.

I. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

In the Office Action of 8/24/2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 28-32 under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the claims are directed to a program or mathematical construct and are not embodied on a medium which would enable the functionality of the operations to be realized. Applicants have amended claim 1, and as the rejection may be applied to the amended claim, respectfully traverse.

Claim 1 as amended recites a <u>computer-implemented</u> method of performing network packet filtering <u>on packets received on a network using a set of rules</u>, said method comprising:

> dividing the set of rules along N dimensions;
> dividing each of said N dimensions into rule ranges using said set of rules;
> generating a set of possible rules for each rule range in each of said N dimensions;
> <u>receiving a set of one or more packets on a network;</u>
> searching said rule ranges along said N dimensions in parallel to select N sets of possible rules along said N dimensions;
> logically combining said N sets of possible rules to generate a final set of rules;
> applying said final set of rules;
> repeating said steps of searching, logically combining, and

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applying for each received packet;

receiving a new rule;

examining the new rule to determine if the new rule specifies a new dimension; and

if it is determined that the new rule specifies a new dimension, adding the new rule to the set of rules, adding the new dimension to the N dimensions, dividing said set of rules along N + 1 dimensions, dividing each of said N + 1 dimensions into rule ranges using said set of rules, and generating a set of possible rules for each rule range in each of said N + 1 dimensions.

[Emphasis added.]

As such, Applicants submit that claim 1 is directed to statutory subject matter and have enabled functionality of its operations. Claims 2-10 and 28-32 are dependent on claim 1 and allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

II. New Claims 33-37

Applicants have added new claims 33-37. Independent claim 33 recites a computer program product comprising a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon when executed filter packets received on a network using a set of rules, the computer program product comprising sets of instructions for:

dividing the set of rules along N dimensions;

dividing each of said N dimensions into rule ranges using said set of rules;

generating a set of possible rules for each rule range in each of said N dimensions;

receiving a set of one or more packets on a network;

searching said rule ranges along said N dimensions in parallel to select N sets of possible rules along said N dimensions;

logically combining said N sets of possible rules to generate a final set of rules;

applying said final set of rules;

repeating said steps of searching, logically combining, and applying for each received packet;

receiving a new rule;

examining the new rule to determine if the new rule specifies a new dimension; and

if it is determined that the new rule specifies a new dimension, adding the new rule to the set of rules, adding the new dimension to the N dimensions, dividing said set of rules along $N + 1$ dimensions, dividing each of said $N + 1$ dimensions into rule ranges using said set of rules, and generating a set of possible rules for each rule range in each of said $N + 1$ dimensions.

Claim 33 is a computer program product having limitations similar to claim 1 and is allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Also, claim 33 is embodied on a medium which would enable the functionality of its operations to be realized. Claims 34-37 are dependent on claim 33 and allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 33.
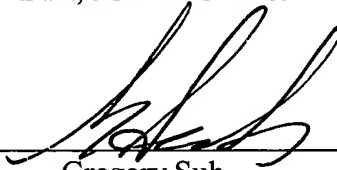
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the claims are in condition for

allowance. Reconsideration of the rejections is requested. Allowance is earnestly solicited

at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,

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